

## REMARKS

### STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-9, 11-19, and 22-31 remain in the application.

Claims 24 and 29 have been amended.

Claims 1-9, 11-19, and 22-31 are currently pending in the application.

### SUMMARY OF THE OBJECTIONS

Claims 24 and 29 are objected to because of the following informality: the claims recite the clause “said information” which lacks antecedent basis.

### RESPONSE TO THE OBJECTIONS

Claims 24 and 29 have been objected to as including the clause “said information” which lacks antecedent basis. In this amendment, the clause “information” has been replaced by the clause “second data”. Claims 24 and 29 now read in the pertinent part:

**“... wherein said node uses said ~~information~~ second data to determine whether a deadlock exists... “**

The Applicant respectfully submits that the antecedent basis for the amendment can be found in the following clause of the independent claims (Claims 22 and 27, respectively) from which Claims 24 and 29 depend:

**“... in response to said request from said node, providing second data to said node, wherein said second data includes at least part of said first data.”**

The Applicant respectfully submits that the above amendments are submitted to address the objection as to form made in the Final Office Action.

### CONCLUSION

The Applicant believes that the objections as to the form of Claims 24 and 29 raised in the Final Office Action have been addressed. Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

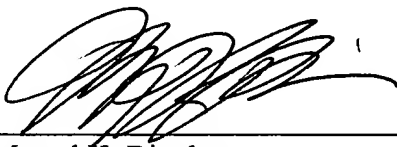
The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

To the extent necessary to make this reply timely filed, the Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

If any applicable fee is missing or insufficient, throughout the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to any applicable fees and to credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Date: September \_\_, 2004**

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 2313-1450.

on September 27 <sup>2004</sup> by James Hunt